

Lancing College

August 2024

Fraud awareness in respect of the payment of school fees

Fraudsters pretending to be from the College are clever and are increasingly targeting parents using emails to try and convince them to pay into their fraudulent bank account. This is affecting all independent schools in the UK. They are very clever at obtaining the names of pupils and the contact details of their parents from publicly available information or from phishing attacks on parents. There has also been a recent data breach at the third-party company which administers many schools' visas – parents who have been affected by this have been notified separately.

The fraudsters use information from social media, websites, data breaches etc. to put together convincing looking emails requesting funds, typically offering a discount for early payment and using the name of staff which they have obtained from other correspondence or the internet or from hacking parent email accounts by using phishing attacks.

They have recently been using names of our admissions staff, House Mistresses and House Masters and Finance Team members – they get this information off the internet. They will send emails back and forth to you persuading you that the payment request is genuine – they may even telephone you. They can be very convincing.

They use email addresses with very similar domain names, and sometimes even showing our genuine domain name. All of our genuine email domain names end in @lancing.org.uk, but fraudsters can make emails look as though they are genuine domain names.

For example, recently fraudsters pretending to be the College have used @lancingscollege.co.uk. You will notice that this isn't quite right. The fake bank account that these fraudsters set up for parents to pay into was also convincing – they set up one at NatWest Bank (a very reputable UK bank) and told the parents that the name of the account was Lancing College and then international payments don't match the name of the account against the account number and sort code.

You can see that we are up against formidable foes.

In the future fraudsters will become even more convincing and clever.

1. Our bank details are below -

Lancing College and Lancing Prep at Hove

Bank: Barclays Bank
Account Name: Lancing College Ltd
Sort Code: 20-65-82
Account Number: 60797049
Swift code/ BIC: BARCGB22
IBAN No: GB31BARC20658260797049

Lancing Prep at Worthing

Bank: Barclays Bank
Account Name: Lancing College Ltd Worthing
Sort Code: 20-65-82
Account Number: 93191095
Swift Code/ BIC: BARCGB22
IBAN: GB89BARC20658293191095

2. We have no plans to change our current accounts so do not pay any other account for school fees. If we do ever change our account we will put the new bank details on the parent portal. You can verify the details above on the parent portal.
3. We recommend that all overseas parents pay using our secure payment platform administered by Flywire and which can be accessed from our website – link below.

[Secure Payments | Lancing College | Independent Senior School & Sixth Form | Woodard | West Sussex | South of London](#)

In the event Parents do receive an email from fraudsters, please forward to the Finance Team at feesadmin@lancing.org.uk and we recommend that you immediately change the password to your email accounts.

If in doubt about anything do telephone your child's House Master or Mistress or you can call our Fees Administrator on 01273 465903 or email on feesadmin@lancing.org.uk

Mark Milling CA

Bursar